

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 NASA-01 ERDA-05 /077 W  
-----231646 013253 /44

R 231545Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9969  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
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DEPT PLEASE PASS NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, XT

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)

MINISTERIAL-LEVEL COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 14-15, 1977

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA) MET AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN PARIS FEB. 14-15. THE RESULTS WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT ESA HEADQUARTERS FEB. 15. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF NEW PROGRAMS OR EXTENSIONS OF ONGOING PROGRAMS WERE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE, FUNDING LEVELS WERE NOT APPROVED. DECISIONS WERE NOT REACHED IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NUMBER OF AREAS BUT DEFERRED TO ANOTHER MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MID-YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. MR. MARIO PEDINI, MINISTER FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH, ITALY, REPORTED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT CANADA HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS A "NEW MEMBER OF ESA WITH FULL RIGHTS," AND THIS IS THE WAY

IT WAS REPORTED IN AP AND AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ESA PERSONNEL INDICATE THAT NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN MADE BY CANADA. HOWEVER, THE MATTER OF CLOSER COOPERATION WAS DISCUSSED IN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. CANADA WILL CONSIDER FURTHER WHETHER IT WANTS TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER WITH VOTING RIGHTS ON SOME PROGRAMS OR BECOME A FULL MEMBER BY ACCEDING TO THE EUROPEAN SPACE COMPACT.

3. THE FOLLOWING NEW PROGRAMS OR EXTENSIONS OF ALL PROGRAMS WERE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE:

A. MAROTS WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE A SECOND SATELLITE AND A SECOND LAUNCHER WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING AN OPERATIONAL SYSTEM. NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE WITH USERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TOWARD THE PROCUREMENT OF A THIRD AND A FOURTH MAROTS SATELLITE FOR USE IN AN OPERATIONAL WORLDWIDE MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM.

B. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN REGIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM AS AN OPERATIONAL EXTENSION OF ESA'S OTS PROGRAM (DUE FOR LAUNCH IN JUNE 1977). IT WOULD BE INAUGURATED WITH THE FIRST SATELLITE LAUNCHED BY ARIANE IN 1981.

C. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEAVY PLATFORM (SPACE-  
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CRAFT) FOR A VARIETY OF NEW COMMUNICATIONS PAYLOADS. IT IS ENVISIONED AS A PRECURSOR OF A PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A PRE-OPERATIONAL TELEVISION BROADCAST SATELLITE.

D. AN ADVANCED SYSTEM AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE THREE PROGRAMS.

E. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE GROUND NETWORK (EARTHNET) USING DATA GENERATED BY NASA SATELLITES TO DISTRIBUTE AND ARCHIVE REMOTE-SENSING SATELLITE DATA. THE APPROVAL OF A SPACE SEGMENT FOR THIS PROGRAM WAS DEFERRED TO PERMIT FURTHER STUDY OF TWO COMPETING PROPOSALS FOR AN EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE, ONE SUGGESTED BY ESA AND THE SECOND (THE SPOT PROGRAM) BY CNES, THE FRENCH NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY. FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAM FOR 1977 WAS APPROVED AS AN ITEM IN THE GENERAL BUDGET. THE PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WILL BE HANDLED AS A SPECIAL PROJECT

(WITH OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION AND AGREED FUNDING LEVELS)

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UNLESS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED TO PROCEED  
WITH IT AS AN OBLIGATORY PROGRAM PRIOR TO END OF THIS  
YEAR.

4. THE COUNCIL AGREED ON A RESOLUTION DEFINING THE ROLE  
OF THE AGENCY IN ITS EXTERNAL RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER  
STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. A SECOND  
RESOLUTION WAS PASSED, RELATING TO THE ROLE OF THE  
AGENCY IN RELATION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OPERATION  
SYSTEMS. BOTH RESOLUTIONS ARE SOMEWHAT RESTRICTIVE  
IN NATURE IN THAT THEY LIMIT ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS  
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AND REQUIRE PRIOR COUNCIL APPROVAL.

5. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE DEFERRED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

A. THE PROCUREMENT OF SIX PRODUCTION ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLES. MINISTER PEDINI NOTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES RECONFIRMED THEIR INTEREST TO MOVE FORWARD (FRANCE), ONE INDICATED NO INTEREST (UNITED KINGDOM), AND OTHERS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE AS TO WHETHER A VOTE HAD BEEN TAKEN, THE REPLY WAS IN THE NEGATIVE, BUT IT WAS STATED THAT "ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES INDICATED AN INTEREST." A SERIES OF MILESTONES FOR REACHING A DECISION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. A DECISION IS REQUIRED BY MID-YEAR IF THERE IS TO BE NO GAP BETWEEN THE R&D AND OPERATIONAL PHASES.

B. AGREEMENT ON A LEVEL OF RESOURCES FOR 1978-80. HENCE THE NEW ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED IN PRINCIPLE STILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE FURTHER DEFINITION AND FUNDING APPROVAL.

C. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCING THE OPERATION OF THE GUIANA SPACE CENTER.

6. THE NEXT ESA COUNCIL AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND PREPARATION DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS MEETING CAN BE HELD BEFORE THE AUGUST VACATION PERIOD.

7. COMMENTS: (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) THIS WAS THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING FRANCE REQUESTED LAST SUMMER WHEN CNES WENT THROUGH THE LABOR TROUBLE OF STRIKES AT TOULOUSE AND HUBERT CURIEN WAS APPOINTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CNES. THE FRENCH WANTED TO KEEP SUFFICIENT BUSINESS IN FRANCE TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT, KEEP THEIR OWN FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES DOWN, AND KEEP THE ARIANE PROJECT GOING. APPROVAL OF THE PRODUCTION PHASE FOR ARIANE AND INITIATION OF THE SPOT PROGRAM WERE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE FRENCH OBJECTIVES AT THIS MEETING--AND BOTH WERE POSTPONED. THE MEETING WAS NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL FROM ANYONE'S POINT OF VIEW,

PARTICULARLY VIEWED FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL INTERESTS.  
A GOOD DEAL OF WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE DURING THE NEXT  
FEW MONTHS IF THE NEXT SESSION IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN  
MAKING SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.

8. THE FRENCH MINISTER, D'ORNANO, DID NOT ATTEND THE  
MEETING DUE TO THE DEATH OF A MAJOR FIGURE IN THE PARIS  
CITY ELECTIONS. HIS DEPUTY, A STATE SECRETARY, MADE  
A BRIEF APPEARANCE AND THEN WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL,  
APPARENTLY SICK. HE WAS REPORTED AS HAVING APPEARED  
THE NEXT DAY AT A POLITICAL RALLY. THE VISITING  
MINISTERS WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE  
FRENCH DELEGATION. (END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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